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CONTACT: Brad Dayspring
(202) 226-8582

RSC Urges House Democrats to Help American Businesses

Legislation needed to address H-1B Visa Caps on legal workers

WASHINGTON, DC – Members of the fiscally responsible Republican Study Committee (RSC) are urging Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) to expeditiously allow the House to consider legislation that would temporarily increase the flow of high-skilled, legal immigrants into America. Over thirty members of the RSC have signed a letter – spearheaded by RSC Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-AZ) and former Chairman John Shadegg (R-AZ) – calling on the Democrat leaders to address this continuing problem.

“Every year, American businesses tell us how they are unable to retain the qualified people that they want to retain because of the artificially low H-1B visas caps and related regulations that do not reflect market realities,” reads the RSC letter. “This situation is ironic, since most of these unemployable people were educated in the United States. As a country, we are effectively handing these highly-educated, extremely desirable individuals a diploma and a plane ticket. The message we are sending is: ‘You can learn here, but you have to work in another country.’”

The RSC letter also draws a clear difference between legal and illegal immigration, noting, “In the past, the issue of temporary, high-skilled, legal immigration has been linked politically and legislatively to the issue of *illegal* immigration. We believe this linkage to be unfortunate at best and urge you to decouple the two issues by moving temporary, high-skilled, legal immigration reform legislation to the floor in short order.”

Statement from RSC Chairman Jeb Hensarling:

“The H-1B visa cap is a problem that hits American businesses each year and restricts their freedom to hire and retain whom they want when they want, and it continues to get worse. A wide range of businesses rely on legal immigrant workers to fill job vacancies where domestic labor is not readily available. I hope that both Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer recognize the seriousness of the problem this poses for American businesses, and I urge them to allow the House to consider legislation that address it — even if temporarily.”

Statement from Congressman John Shadegg:

“If our country is to compete in the global marketplace, we must allow talented, well-educated individuals to remain in the United States. Many successful, cutting edge companies—eBay, Intel, and Google—were created by foreign-born, American-educated entrepreneurs. These companies and technologies benefit the American economy and create thousands of jobs. Yet every year, under the current policy brilliant, innovative minds are educated in our best universities and then sent packing. We must increase the number of H-1B visas to retain these highly skilled workers and maintain America’s competitive edge.”

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*Congressman Jeb Hensarling is Chairman of the Republican Study Committee (RSC).
For additional information about the RSC please visit
www.house.gov/hensarling/rsc*